

Remarks/Arguments

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 11 and 17-34 will be pending in the application¹. Claims 12-16 are being canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of their subject matter. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims, and any other claims supported by the specification, in the future.

Claim 11 is being amended to include the limitations of claim 13 as originally presented. Claim 19 is being amended to expressly recite the limitations of Claim 11 as previously presented.

New claims 21-24, which depend from claim 11 as presently amended, include the limitations of canceled claims 12 and 14-16, respectively. New claims 25-29, which depend from claim 17, include the limitations of claims 11-16 as previously presented, respectively. New claims 30-34, which depend from claim 19, include the limitations of claims 11-16 as previously presented, respectively.

No new matter is being added by way of this amendment.

In the Office Action dated May 6, 2003, claims 11, 12 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Bailey et al. (Analyst 1985, 110, pp 603-604) and also by Ozaki et al. (CAS, Accession No. 127:77478/DN, Kidouri, 30, 1997). Claims 11, 12 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Sinn et al (US 6,410,695B1). Claim 13 was rejected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (i.e., claim 11 from which it depends), but was deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 17-20 were allowed.

Claims 12-16 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 11 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 13 as previously presented, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if rewritten in such independent form. New claims 21-24 depend from claim 11 and are believed allowable in view of the stated allowability of claim 11 as presently amended.

New claims 25-34 depend from claim 17 or claim 19, which have been deemed allowable by the Examiner.

¹ The present amendment results in 3 independent and 19 total claims. Therefore, no claims fee is due.

Each of the issues raised by the Examiner has been addressed and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. If it would facilitate examination, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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